

# Fact Sheet

## Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) Tribal Option Overview

### County Playbook: NC Medicaid Managed Care

#### What is the EBCI Tribal Option?

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) Tribal Option is a health plan managed by the Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority (CIHA) to meet the primary care coordination needs of federally-recognized tribal members and others eligible for services through Indian Health Service (IHS). Only IHS-eligible beneficiaries associated with the EBCI can participate in this health plan.

The EBCI Tribal Option will build on the Tribe's strong medical model and deliver high-quality care at the local level. The EBCI Tribal Option offers care coordination and management of Medicaid medical, behavioral health, pharmacy, and support services to address the health needs of American Indian/Alaskan Native Medicaid beneficiaries.

The EBCI Tribal Option is primarily offered in five counties: Cherokee, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, and Swain. Eligible beneficiaries in the following counties may opt in: Buncombe, Clay, Henderson, Macon, Madison, and Transylvania.

Open enrollment for beneficiaries will begin March 15, 2021 and end May 14, 2021. The EBCI Tribal Option will launch as part of Managed Care on July 1, 2021.

#### **Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI):**

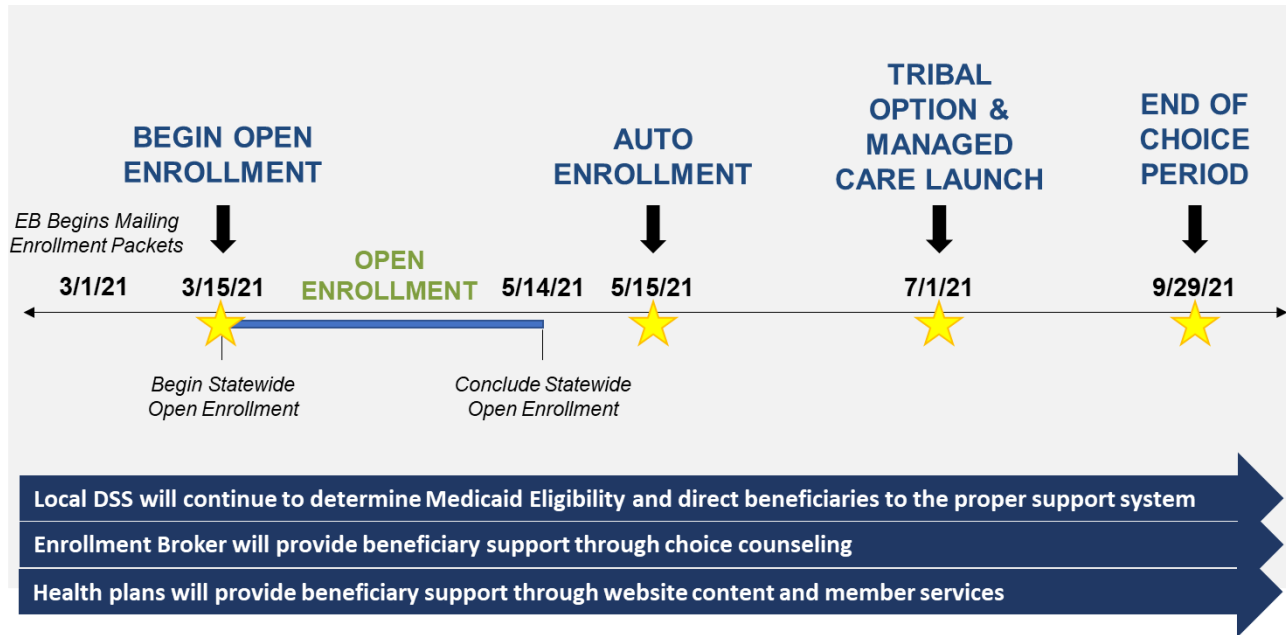
The EBCI is the only North Carolina-based federally-recognized Tribe with a population of approximately 16,000 in the five-county Purchase/Referred Care Delivery Area (PRCDA). The PRCDA is the geographic area in which the EBCI Tribal Option will primarily operate.

#### **Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority (CIHA):**

CIHA is the primary health system for the EBCI. CIHA has delegated authority to manage programs, functions, services, and activities provided by IHS. CIHA provides medical care for more than 13,000 members of the EBCI, including approximately 4,000 Medicaid beneficiaries.



## EBCI TRIBAL OPTION TRANSITION TIMELINE



MILESTONE	IMPORTANCE	TIMELINE	WHO CAN HELP?
<b>Enrollment Packets mailed from Enrollment Broker</b>	Current beneficiaries will receive details by mail on who in their household may choose to enroll in a health plan, what plans they have to choose from, and how they can enroll. Beneficiaries may select a primary care provider (PCP) and enroll in a health plan.	Beginning 3/1/2021	Beneficiaries can contact the Enrollment Broker for assistance.
<b>Open Enrollment</b>	Beneficiaries may select a PCP and enroll in a health plan.	3/15/2021 – 5/14/2021	Beneficiaries can contact the Enrollment Broker for assistance.
<b>Auto-Enrollment</b>	Beneficiaries will be auto-enrolled in the EBCI Tribal Option if they do not select a different health plan and their current PCP is an EBCI Tribal Option network provider.	5/15/2021	Beneficiaries can contact the Enrollment Broker for assistance.
<b>Day 1 – Health Plan Effective Date</b>	Beneficiaries in NC Medicaid Managed Care will now receive Medicaid services from their health plan.	7/1/2021	Beneficiaries can contact their health plan and/or the Enrollment Broker for assistance.

*\*Dates are approximate and subject to change*

## EBCI TRIBAL OPTION ELIGIBILITY

- Federally-recognized tribal members and IHS-eligible beneficiaries associated with the EBCI who live in the five-county region (Cherokee, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, or Swain County).
  - Direct lineal descendants
  - Non-Indian children under 19 years of age
  - Non-Indian pregnant women carrying an Indian child
- Federally-recognized tribal members and IHS-eligible beneficiaries associated with the EBCI who live within a reasonable distance from the five-county region (Buncombe, Clay, Henderson, Macon, Madison, or Transylvania County).

## CHOICES FOR ENROLLMENT

### ***Tribal/IHS Exempt*** – inside five-county region

- Tribal/IHS-exempt beneficiaries will have five health plans to choose from when they enroll:
  - EBCI Tribal Option
  - WellCare
  - UnitedHealth Community Plan
  - Healthy Blue
  - AmeriHealth Caritas

Tribal/IHS-exempt members can change their health plan or choose NC Medicaid Direct at any time.

### ***Tribal/IHS Excluded*** – inside five-county region

- Tribal/IHS-excluded beneficiaries will be auto-enrolled in the EBCI Tribal Option.

Tribal/IHS-excluded members can choose the EBCI Tribal Option or NC Medicaid Direct at any time.

The Enrollment Broker can assist beneficiaries in choosing a health plan and a PCP.

## HOW ENROLLMENT OCCURS

Tribal/IHS-eligible members can enroll in health plans, including the EBCI Tribal Option, in various ways. They can:

- Select a Primary Care Provider (PCP) and health plan through the Enrollment Broker:
  - By calling 1-833-870-5500 (toll free)
  - Online at [ncmedicaidplans.gov](https://ncmedicaidplans.gov)
  - By completing and returning a paper enrollment form by fax or mail
  - Using the NC Medicaid Managed Care mobile app
- Be auto-enrolled in the EBCI Tribal Option if they do not select a different health plan and their current PCP is an EBCI Tribal Option network provider.

Federally-recognized tribal members and IHS-eligible beneficiaries associated with the EBCI who live in Cherokee, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, or Swain County will be auto-enrolled in the EBCI Tribal Option.

Federally-recognized tribal members and IHS-eligible beneficiaries associated with the EBCI who live within a reasonable distance from the five-county region may enroll in the EBCI Tribal Option but will not be auto-enrolled.

Beneficiaries may also indicate PHP and health plan preference in NC FAST (via ePASS application or caseworker entry).

## WHEN ENROLLMENT OCCURS

**During the open enrollment period** as noted above.

**After Medicaid Managed Care launch**, beneficiary enrollment occurs or may change:

- New Applicants –
  - Enrollment is effective the month the application is dispositioned. (This may mean a portion of their eligibility period will be NC Medicaid Direct).
- Beneficiaries with a Change of Circumstance Impacting Enrollment -
  - Enrolled or disenrolled effective the month following the change.
- At Redetermination:
  - Beneficiaries may choose to remain with current health plan or make a change.

Fact Sheets will be updated periodically with new information. Created 12/21/2020.  
For more information, please visit <https://www.medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/transformation>.